

**Tsarkov, Alex**

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**From:** Jim Whipple [greswhiz@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:19 PM

**To:** Tsarkov, Alex

**Subject:** SB1094

Honored Members of the Judiciary Committee

I am writing you to voice my opposition to SB1094, a bill to ban the possession of firearms magazines of over 10 rounds. This well intentioned, but severely flawed, proposed legislation should not be enacted into law for the following reasons:

- 1) A vast majority of Connecticut gun owners possess these magazines in one form or another, and are not criminals. They own these magazines for protection and sport, not murder and mayhem. This bill seeks to criminalize their legally owned and used property with no legal recourse.
- 2) Criminals will simply ignore this law, like they ignore laws against drugs, robbery, and murder. If they are willing to use a gun in a crime, this added charge will not accomplish a thing.
- 3) Large capacity magazines have been made and sold in this country for almost 100 years. There are tens, if not hundreds of millions of them in the United States. Anyone who wants them will have no difficulty obtaining them, except the law abiding citizens of the state of Connecticut.
- 4) The provision to allow citizens to keep magazines "permanently" converted to 10 rounds is flawed. What constitutes "permanent"? Magazines vary in design and material, and such a vague statement in a law leaves well-intentioned citizens open to arrest and prosecution.
- 5) Licensed magazine dealers and manufacturers are exempt so they can continue business. If these magazines are so dangerous that mere possession of them incurs a felony for a CT citizen, why are companies allowed to manufacture and distribute them to the states that do not ban them?
- 6) A pocket full of 10 round magazines will do just as much damage as any others.
- 7) Since there are no legal exceptions or grandfathering provisions, someone who "gets caught" with a magazine they forgot was in the garage is just as much a criminal as a drug dealer with an Uzi.

The bottom line is that this bill will do nothing to stop crime and violence. Those who seek to commit them will always have access to what they want. And, there is no data that shows that any kind of ban deters crime. What this bill will do is take away the legally owned property of law-abiding citizens, and turn them into criminals if they attempt to keep it.

James Whipple  
Shelton, CT

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